

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78051

Takaki SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: October 22, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

For: PUNCTURE DIFFICULTY EVALUATING DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: Q78051

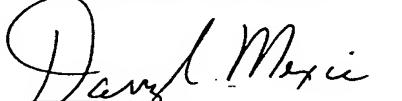
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

English language abstracts, submitted herewith, constitute concise statements of relevance for Japanese Patent Laid-Open Nos. 11-151244, 5-168636 and 7-184998.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO | | <i>'Complete if Known'</i> | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | Application Number | Unknown |
| | | Confirmation Number | Unknown |
| | | Filing Date | October 22, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Takaki SHIMURA |
| | | Art Unit | Unknown |
| | | Examiner Name | Unknown |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | Q78051 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | | US | | | |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Hasegawa M., et al., "Diagnosis of Carotid Arterial Lesions and its Clinical Application – With Special Reference to Cerebral Circulation", Vol. 35, No. 6, p349-358, 1995 | |
| | | Yamazaki Y., et al., "Detection of Early Change in Carotid Arteriosclerosis by Ultrasound high-resolution B-mode imaging, Diabetes Journal, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp 25-27, 1990 | |
| | | Handa N., et al., "Ultrasonic Evaluation of Early Carotid Atherosclerosis, Stroke, Vol. 21, No. 11, pp1567-1572, 1990 | |
| | | J. G. MILLER, et al., "Myocardial Tissue Characterization: An Approach Based On Quantitative Backscatter And Attenuation", IEEE, ULTRASONIC SYMPOSIUM pp782-793, 1983 | |
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|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.